

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-06 AGR-03 AID-10 COME-00

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R 252202Z JUN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 136682

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR

SUBJECT; INDIAN GRAIN SUPPLY

1.IN CONTEXT OF PL 480 PLANNING FOR FY 75, DEPARTMENT
LEARNED FROM USDA OF CONFIDENTIAL DISCLOSURE BY INDIA
SUPPLY MISSION THAT ITS COMBINED PURCHASES AND AUTHORITY
TO PURCHASE TOTAL 1.9 MILLION TONS OF WHEAT AND GRAIN
SORGHUM TO BE DELIVERED PRIOR TO FALL HARVEST, OF WHICH
1.2 MILLION TONS OF WHEAT HAVE BEEN PURCHASED IN THE US.
IN SUPPLY MISSION'S VIEW, THIS WILL ENABLE INDIA TO MEET
ITS GRAIN REQUIREMENTS THIS SUMMER. IF FAVORABLE, FALL
HARVEST WILL CARRY INDIA TO SPRING CROP--THUS, MISSION
INFERRED, OBVIATING NEED FOR CONCESSIONAL FOOD IMPORTS
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FROM US DURING FY 75.

2. FOREGOING SUGGESTS GOI WILL CONTINUE TO TRY TO AVOID REQUESTING RESUMPTION OF PL 480 TITLE I SHIPMENTS, ALTHOUGH INDIAN AMBASSADOR ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS HAS TALKED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF CONCESSIONAL FINANCING. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF UNCERTAINTIES IN INDIA FOOD SITUATION, WE ARE TENTATIVELY PLANNING TO EARMARK 600,000 TONS WHEAT AND 400,000 TONS SORGHUM AS CONTINGENCY RESERVE FOR INDIA IN STATE/AID PROPOSAL FOR ENLARGED PL 480 PROGRAM FOR FY 75.

3. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING FROM EMBASSY:
A)ASSESSMENT OF GOI STRATEGY FOR MEETING FOOD NEEDS,
B) ESTIMATE OF TOTAL GRAIN IMPORT REQUIREMENTS DURING 1974 AND ALTERNATIVES FOR MEETING THEM, AND C) COMMENT ON PROBABLE ADEQUACY OF ONE MILLION TON RESERVE SHOULD TITLE I ASSISTANCE BE REQUESTED. SISCO

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NNN

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